



Southwest Washington Crisis Line: 1.800.626.8137

i *Reasons to call the Crisis Line: You or someone you care about is feeling helpless, hopeless, or seeing no reason to live; thinking about suicide or self-harm; increasing use of alcohol or drugs; withdrawing or becoming isolated; experiencing extreme mood swings, sleeping too little or too much; engaging in dangerous behavior, need to talk to someone who cares ...*

Organizational Description

i *Clark County Crisis Services (CCCS) exists to execute the provisions of the Involuntary Treatment Act (RCW 71.05 and 71.34) in Clark County. CCCS is responsible for evaluating individuals within the county to determine if they meet criteria to be placed on a 120-hour hold due to a **behavioral health crisis**. CCCS is currently managing all court documentation and coordinating court hearings. In addition, CCCS is currently monitoring all individuals in the county that have been placed on a less restrictive alternative or conditional release (LRA/CR).*

DESIGNATED CRISIS RESPONDERS

i *Designated Crisis Responders (DCR) have been given the authority to detain an individual for an initial 120 hours for further evaluation and treatment.*

- An independent decision maker evaluates the evidence to determine risk
- DCR determines if clinical and legal criteria have been met to involuntarily commit a person
- DCR performs a legal investigation process and has probable cause for legal grounds to petition the Superior Court for an involuntary detention
- DCR testifies at civil commitment Hearings on evidence and files subsequent Petitions
- Qualified as Mental Health Professionals, have a Master's degree in counseling, social work, and years of experience providing behavioral health assessments and crisis intervention

Legislative Intent for Civil Commitment

i *RCW 71.05.010 Legislative intent, to protect rights of patient and public and provide care in least restrictive way in the community, if at all possible;*

- a) To protect the health and safety of persons suffering from behavioral health disorders and to protect public safety;
- b) To prevent inappropriate, indefinite commitment of persons living with behavioral health disorders and to eliminate legal disabilities that arise from such commitment;
- c) To provide prompt evaluation and timely and appropriate treatment of persons with behavioral health disorders;
- d) To safeguard individual rights;

- e) To provide continuity of care for persons with serious mental health disorders;
- f) To encourage the full use of all existing agencies, professional personnel, and public funds to prevent duplication of services and unnecessary expenditures; and
- g) To encourage, whenever appropriate, that services be provided within the community.

Legal Definitions for a Civil Commitment Involuntary Hold

i *The following conditions must exist to hold an individual:*

- 1) **Danger to self:** A substantial risk of harm indicated by threats (written or verbal) or attempts to commit suicide or inflict physical harm on one's self.
- 2) **Danger to others:** Behavior which has caused harm or places other in reasonable fear of sustaining harm. Can be written, verbal, or actual assaultive acts.
- 3) **Danger to property of others:** Behavior which has caused substantial loss or damage to the property of others.
- 4) **Grave Disability:** Behavior which results in person being in danger due to failure to provide for essential needs for health and safety and/or individual has shown deterioration in routine functioning evidenced by repeated and escalating loss of cognitive or volitional control.

WHAT DESIGNATED CRISIS RESPONDERS PROVIDE

i *Evaluation of individuals in Behavioral Health crisis to see if they meet criteria for an involuntary hold*

- Individuals in crisis need to have a mental health or substance use disorder
- An assessment to see if an individual is a danger to themselves, danger to others or gravely disabled
- A thorough investigation to determine the need for a psychiatric hospitalization to stabilize from the crisis
- Individuals in need of involuntary treatment don't have any insight that they need help
- Working with the Adult Mobile Crisis Intervention team referral after a community assessment

WHAT DESIGNATED CRISIS RESPONDERS DON'T PROVIDE

i *Ongoing Behavioral Health counseling or treatment*

- Hospital discharge planning
- Medication
- Assessments to see if an individual should leave the hospital against medical advice
- Initial community outreach assessments are provided by the Adult Mobile Crisis Intervention team